A NEW ALOE SPECIES AND VARIETY FROM SOMALIA NORTH

G. W. Reynolds

(With Plates XXVIII-XXX)

Aloe hemmingii Reynolds et Bally. Species nova, affinis *A. jucunda* Reynolds, sed haec planta grandiore non caespitosa, foliis grandioribus maculis dissimilibus, inflorescentia altiora, differt.

Planta succulenta, acaulis vel brevissime caulescens. *Folia* c. 10, dense rosulata, patula vel brevissime recurvula, lanceolata, vel ovato-lanceolata, c. 10—12 cm. longa, 3—3·5 cm. lata; *supra* basi plana, superne levissime canaliculata, copiose maculata; *subtus* convexa copiose maculata; marginibus dentibus deltoideis brunneis 2 mm. longis 4—6 mm. distantibus armata.

Inflorescentia simplex saepe 30 cm. longa. *Racemus* cylindricus, 10—15 cm. longus laxe c. 18-floribus. *Bracteae* ovato-acuminatae, scariosae, 8 mm. longae, 3 mm. latae, 3—5-nervatae. *Pedicelli* 6—8 mm. longi. *Perianthium* cylindraceo-trigonum, roseum, 24 mm. longum, circa ovarium 8 mm. diam; *segmenta exteriora* per 7 mm. libera; *interiora* latiora. *Antherae* 2—3 mm. exsertae. *Stigma* demum 3—4 mm. exsertum. *Ovarium* viridulum, 5 mm. longum, 2 mm. diam.

Somalia North. Sheikh Pass, Golis Range, 1 June 1949, Bally 7146 holotype (EA); near Sheikh Pass, coll. Bally, B7146, cult Johannesburg, fl. 19 Feb. 1955, Reynolds 7207 (PRE); *Borama Dist.* Loli Mudeda, 8 miles N.W. of Borama, 3 Oct. 1954, Bally B9961 (EA).

Our distinctive new species is named after Mr. C. F. Hemming, who for many years travelled extensively with the Desert Locust Survey throughout Somalia North (formerly Somaliland Protectorate), Somalia South, Northern Kenya, parts of Ethiopia, and S. Arabia. He collected extensively in remote places, including many plants of Aloe, and I am indebted to him for plants and much assistance.

Mr. P. R. O. Bally collected plants of *A. hemmingii* in May 1949 near the top of Sheikh Pass in the Golis Range, south of Berbera, (B.7146), and in October 1954 he found the same species flowering at Loli Mudeda, 8 miles N.W. of Borama, which is about 84 miles west of Hargeisa.

A. hemmingii is nearest allied to *A. jucunda* Reynolds (see this *Journal* 19: 21 (1953)) but the latter is a much smaller plant that suckers freely and forms dense groups; it has much smaller leaves with different markings, and slightly smaller flowers.

The flowers of *A. hemmingii* have broad whitish borders to the outer segments which give them a somewhat white-striped effect.

Description

Plant succulent, solitary or in small groups, acaulescent or with very short stem.

Leaves about 10, densely rosulate, spreading to slightly recurved near apex, ovate or lanceolate-attenuate, 10—12 cm. long, 3—3·5 cm. broad near base; *upper surface* flat near base, slightly canaliculate and with margins somewhat involute near apex, brownish-green with numerous dull white elongated streaks, throughout; *lower surface* convex, similar in colour to upper surface, but with the white lenticular streaks or blotches smaller and more numerous throughout; *margins* armed with pungent deltoid teeth that are whitish near base, brown-tipped at apex, smaller near base and apex, largest at middle of leaf where they average 2 mm. long, 4—6 mm. apart, sometimes with a few small teeth dorsally in median line near apex.

Inflorescence simple, averaging 30—35 cm. long.

Peduncle slender, basally plano-convex and 5 mm. broad, upwards terete and 3·5 mm. thick, dull brownish, with a few sterile-bracts.

Raceme cylindric, 10—15 cm. long, 5 cm. diam laxly about 18-flowered, the buds grey-green tipped and suberect, open flowers rose-red, nutant to pendulous.

Bracts ovate-acuminate, 8 mm. long, 3 mm. broad, thin, scarious, 5-nerved.

Pedicels 6—8 mm. long.

Perianth flamingo-pink or pale rose-red, minutely spotted, cylindric-trigonous, 24 mm. long, 8 mm. diam across the ovary, thence cylindric-trigonous upwards; *outer segments* free for 7 mm., 3-nerved to base, and with broad white borders giving the perianth a white-striped effect, the apices subacute, slightly spreading; *inner segments* broader than the outer and with broader white border, and broader more obtuse more spreading apices.

Filaments pale lemon, filiform-flattened, the 3 inner narrower and lengthening before the 3 outer with their *anthers* in turn exserted 2—3 mm.

Stigma at length exserted 3—4 mm. *Ovary* yellowish-olive, 5 mm. long, 2 mm. diam.

A NEW VARIETY

A. somaliensis Watson var. **marmorata** Reynolds et Bally. Var. nov., a forma typica foliis grandioribus viridioribus marmoratis, inflorescentia multo ramosiora, racemis brevioribus densiore floreatis, differt.

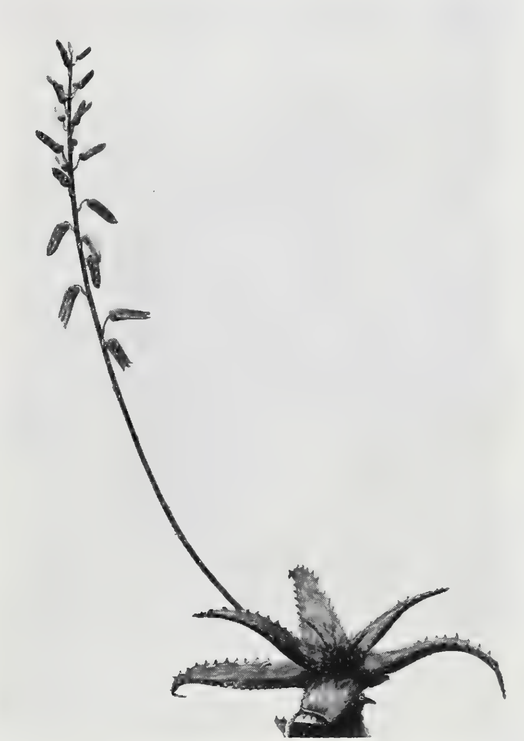

Plate XXVIII

Aloe hemmingii Reynolds et Bally. Cultivated plant from Sheikh Pass, Golis Range, S. of Berbera, Somalia North. Height 40 cm.

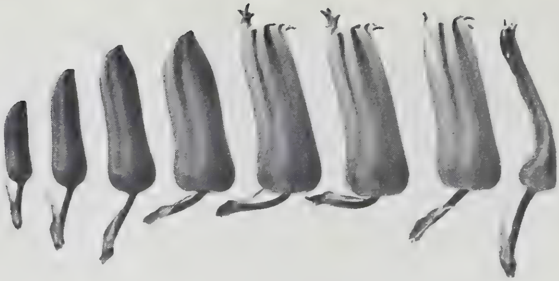

FIG. 1.

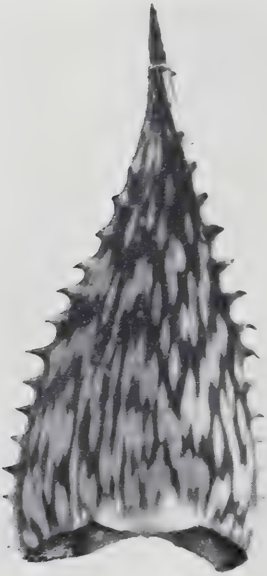

FIG. 2.

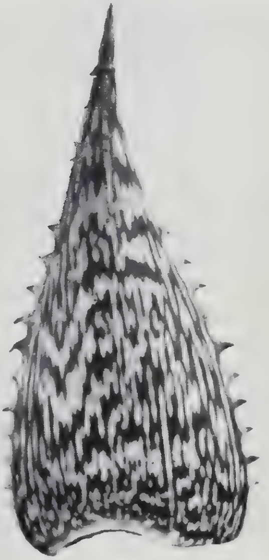

FIG. 3.

PLATE XXIX. *Aloe hemmingii* Reynolds et Bally

FIG. 1. Flowers 1/1 from bud to post-pollination stage.

FIG. 2. Upper surface of leaf (natural size).

FIG. 3. Lower surface of leaf (natural size).

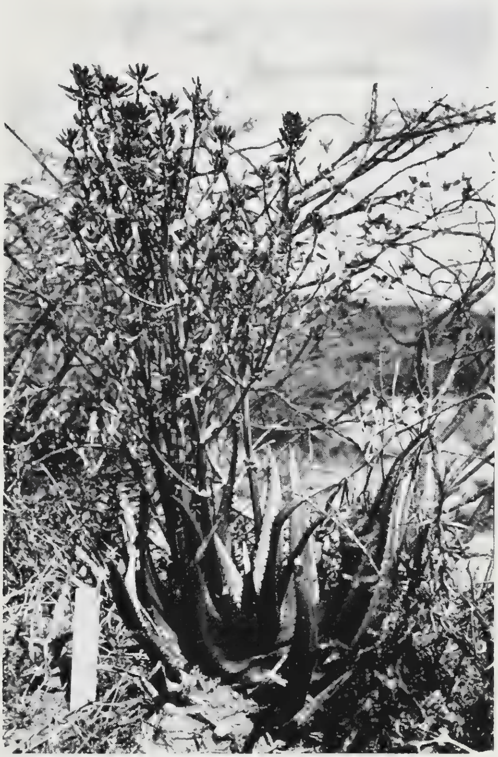

Plate XXX.

Aloe somaliensis Watson var. *marmorata* Reynolds et Bally

At Upper Sheikh, Somalia North; height 85 cm. The inflorescence entangled in branches of *Acacia etbaica*.
Photo: Mr. P. O. R. Bally.

Somalia North. Near Upper Sheikh, mostly in shade of *Acacia etbaica*, fl. 7 October 1958, P. R. O. Bally 11793, holotype (K), isotypes (EA, PRE, G).

Upper Sheikh, cult. Mbabane, Swaziland, fl. 21 June 1964, Reynolds 8353 (K, PRE).

This interesting variety of *A. somaliensis* was found by Mr. P. R. O. Bally on the flat alluvial plain in the neighbourhood of Upper Sheikh—which is south of Berbera (on the Gulf of Aden) on the road to Burao—locally common, mostly under spreading low-growing bushes of *Acacia etbaica*. In this habitat, the inflorescences become entangled in the branches and photographs give poor detail. I have also collected it myself near Sheikh.

The var. *marmorata* is a larger plant than *A. somaliensis* and has darker green leaves with a different pattern of markings which with age, give the leaves a marbled effect. The inflorescence is considerably more branched, the racemes are shorter and denser flowered, the flowers are deeper red (not pinkish) while the free segments turn ivory-white at maturity.

Description

Plant succulent, acaulescent or with very short stem, solitary or in small groups of 3—4.

Leaves about 16—20, densely rosulate, ascending, spreading near apex, narrowly lanceolate-attenuate, up to 40 cm. long, 6—8 cm. broad. *Upper surface* scarcely canaliculate, dark green, obscurely speckled, with diffuse darker green longitudinal markings giving the leaf a marbled effect; *lower surface* rounded, otherwise as in the upper surface; *margins* armed with brown deltoid teeth 4 mm. long, 4—6 mm. apart low down, 10 mm. apart higher up.

Inflorescence a many-branched panicle, up to 85 cm. high, up to 4 produced simultaneously. *Peduncle* dark-olive green with pale gray longitudinal striations, basally flattened and 20 mm. broad, up to 16-branched from low down, the lowest sometimes with 1—4 secondary branchlets.

Racemes 4—6 cm. long, rather densely flowered, the buds pink, with olive tips, open flowers bright red, the segments turning ivory-white with age.

Bracts triangular, 6—7 mm. long, 3—4 mm. broad at base, 3—5-nerved.

Pedicels 10 mm. long.

Perianth bright red, cylindric, 26 mm. long; *outer segments* free to the middle.

Genitals shortly exserted.

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